

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Recreation Department
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation



Recreation Department

PARK COMMISSIONERS
Shirley Canniff
Leslie Mayer
Jen Rothenberg
Phil Lasker
Scott Walker
Josh Fenollosa - Associate
Sarah Carrier- Associate

MEETING NOTICE

The Park and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

7:00 PM – Arlington Community Center (2nd Floor)

AGENDA

- 1) Menotomy Bench Gift – Vincent Tempelman
- 2) MBTA Communities – Jennifer Susse
- 3) Spy Pond Signage Request – Friends of Spy Pond Park and Laura Kiesel
- 4) Spy Pond Portable Restroom Placement Concerns – Lisa Reynolds
- 5) Kelley Foundation Halloween Event – Cosponsored by Arlington Recreation Discussion
- 6) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:
 - a) Permitting events in public spaces with alcohol
- 7) Correspondence Received: Menotomy Off Leash Dogs (Yogi)
- 8) Minute Approval – 8/8/2023, 8/29/2023
- 9) New Business
- 10) Public Comment



PARK and RECREATION COMMISSION
422 Summer Street
Arlington, Massachusetts 02474

Joseph Connolly
Director of Recreation

Phone 781-316-3880 Fax 781-641-5495

COMMISSIONERS

Jen Rothenberg Leslie Mayer Shirley Canniff Phil Lasker Scott Walker Sara Carrier Scott Lever

GIFTS FOR PARKS FORM

Contact Name: Vincent Tempelman Date of Request: 8/23/23

Organization: —

Private or Non-Profit Group(501 c3): Private

Address: 228 Longport Rd, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Phone: Home 973-440-9666 Cell 973-960-0240

Email: vin-shelly@hotmail.com

Intended Gift (please select one):

Park Bench

Picnic Table

Bike Rack

Planting/Tree

Donation Costs: (Actual equipment + installation fee – estimate of maintenance over 8 years)

Park Bench \$ 3000.00 (installation & maintenance for 8 years)

Picnic Table \$ 4000.00 (installation & maintenance for 8 years)

Bike Rack \$ 3000.00 (installation & maintenance for 8 years)

Park Requested: Menotomy Rocks

Recognition Plaque Text (see attached policy details for specifics):

Dedicated to the memory of Valeska von Allwoden,
who greeted each day for over 50 years with
the view before you of Centennial Grove and Hills Pond.

Vent Tempelman

Signature

8/23/23

Date

Re: Gifting Policy and Form for Bench Donation

Vincent Tempelman <vin_shelly@hotmail.com>

Thu 8/31/2023 10:07 AM

To:Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good morning Joe,

I went over the possible locations around Hills Pond for the bench with my sister. We would be very grateful if our 1st choice (corner of Centennial Grove where my mother accessed the park from her property abutting Menotomy Rocks Park) or the 2nd choice (a short distance to the right of the 1st choice along the edge of Centennial Grove). You and I observed that it would not make sense to place an accessible bench along the path here as it would be in front of the existing benches along the perimeter of Centennial Grove. Instead, it visually made sense to place the bench along the perimeter in between the existing benches. In reviewing MA Regulation 521 CMR, my understanding is that a minimum of 5% but not less than one of the park seatings be accessible. As the two new benches placed on either end of Centennial Grove are accessible benches, we would hope that the committee would consider an exemption to the accessible requirement for our bench.

Here is the revised inscription that we would like to have on the bench: "Dedicated to Valeska von Allwörden, beloved mother, grandmother and healer, who greeted each day for over 50 years with the view before you of Centennial Grove and Hills Pond." Please let me know if this is acceptable.

If the committee does not agree with our proposal, we would like the position at the start of the hillside (location on the right from the main park entrance that you and I reviewed):





For this location we would like the inscription for the bench to read: "Dedicated to Valeska von Allwörden, beloved mother, grandmother and healer, who greeted each day for over 50 years with the view of Centennial Grove and Hills Pond."

Thank you for your help in this matter. When will you be meeting with the committee?

Sincerely,
Vincent Tempelman

From: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 9:36 AM
To: Vincent Tempelman <vin_shelly@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Gifting Policy and Form for Bench Donation

Do you still want to meet or pick a new date?

Joseph Connelly, M.Ed.
Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington
781-316-3889
jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us

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Public Records Notice

The MBTA Communities Law requires cities and towns served by the MBTA to increase the supply and type of housing in order to address high regional housing costs. The type of housing incentivized is sometimes referred to as “missing middle housing.” These are the triplexes and small apartment buildings that Arlington used to build, before the last major zoning recodification in the 1970s.

There is a good introduction to the MBTA Communities Act on the [Equitable Arlington website](#), but very briefly the law requires 177 communities that are located near transit to create a district of reasonable size where multifamily housing is allowed by right. The final proposal is still being hashed out, but it will likely affect between 2 and 3 percent of Arlington’s buildable land.

The MBTA Working Group has just concluded its work and will soon send its recommended proposal to Arlington’s Redevelopment Board (ARB) for consideration. Then the ARB will have a series of meetings, both to refine the proposal and hear from the public. Finally, Town Meeting members will vote on a proposal at the special Town Meeting that starts on October 17th.

Re: signage at spy pond park

Laura Kiesel <lakiesel@gmail.com>

Thu 8/3/2023 1:09 PM

To:Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>

3 attachments (1 MB)

OwlLawnSign.jpg; eagle_Side_profile_edge.JPG; MKMemorial.png;

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Joe Connelly,

I hope you're doing well. See attached for a couple of possibilities for a sign at Spy Pond Park. One is the standard lawn sign you have likely seen all around the Town of Arlington. The other is an "In Memory" Sign of MK the eagle specifically, referring to her as a beloved resident of Arlington, her hatch date and death date and the cause of death. I put my photo in, but really any good photo of her would do (this might be an opportunity for the Artist-in-Residence, or the ACAC to get involved). Or a sketch or illustration of her, which I am also attaching a photo of MK, that I used an app to convert the photo too.

Please let me know what meeting this will be discussed at, as I'd love to attend (are these meetings held virtually?). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laura Kiesel

On Wed, Aug 2, 2023 at 8:40 AM Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us> wrote:

Hi Laura,

Please send me a proof of the signs and recommended locations. I would ask that both the Board of Health and Conservation also weigh in on the sign language.

I will then put this on the Park Commission agenda for approval.

Joseph Connelly, M.Ed.
Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington
781-316-3889
jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us

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Public Records Notice

Please be advised that pursuant to G.L. c. 4 sec. 7(26) email correspondence to and from public employees is considered a public record. Only where the content of an email falls within one of the stated exemptions within the law may the Town withhold documents or information.



***IN MEMORY OF
MK THE BALD EAGLE
BELOVED RESIDENT OF
ARLINGTON***

***Hatched: Spring 2016
Died: March 1, 2023***

***Cause of Death: Secondary
Rodenticide Poisoning from Eating
Poisoned Rats***

© Laura Kiesel

E I V E D E E

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FSPP presentation at Parks and Recreation Meeting September 12

Karen Grossman <fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org>

Sun 8/27/2023 6:51 PM

To:Myra Schwartz <schwartzmyras28@gmail.com>;Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>

Cc:Adrienne Landry <alandryartist@verizon.net>;David Morgan <dmorgan@town.arlington.ma.us>

1 attachments (808 KB)

Revegetation.pdf;

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Hi Myra and Joe,

I thought I'd inform you about the FSPP item on the September 12 agenda of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

(Unfortunately, it's on a Tuesday night when the Mystic Chorale will be rehearsing.) Joe, can it be the first item

after the minutes are approved? We're asking for approval of signs in Spy Pond Park's planting beds for which David Morgan has already

endorsed the wording. The signs will refer to information on our website via the QR code, also. We just need to embed the QR code onto the sign in the blank spot.

I am attaching the proposed sign and the information to which it will refer. Myra, I thought your comments would be helpful in getting the Park Commissioners on board, in addition to David's approval. Since there wasn't any money left from the project for educational signage, this would provide some incentive for the public to respect the work that's been done to stabilize the shoreline.

In addition, I will be asking two questions important to the health of the pond and vs. possible contamination:

1) "What is the plan for keeping the rubber particles coming off the path through the park from being washed into the pond?

2) "What is the plan for keeping the sand from North Beach from making the path impervious and not washing into the pond at the handicapped ramp?"

I wanted to keep you up to date since you had been the liaison with the Con Comm, are involved with them again, and asked me to do so.

Thanks,

Karen

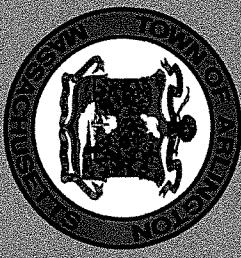
REVEGETATION AREA PLEASE DO NOT ENTER

- Walking here causes shoreline erosion. We are restoring this area because overuse has damaged it.
- We are replacing harmful, invasive plants with healthy native ones. They need space to grow and get established.
- We thank you for helping us have a healthier and more beautiful Spy Pond!

FIND OUT MORE:



FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK



Re: porto potties

Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>

Tue 7/25/2023 2:51 PM

To:Lisa Reynolds <lisa.reynolds17@gmail.com>

Cc:Karen Grossman <fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org>;Scott Walker <swalker17@hotmail.com>

Hi Lisa,

Yes I think a conversation with the Commission would be appropriate as this was discussed as part of the playground renovation process and that location was also discussed years ago as part of the initial installation of portable restrooms in the parks which had public input as well. I believe the Friends of Spy were involved at that time. Again it was moved at some point in my absence and I am not sure of the reasoning. The unit should be in an area that is accessible, that is why the current location makes sense and the parking lot as we call was not. Having the unit in that location also has safety issues as I said earlier. Screening is certainly an option that can be considered. I think to be consistent the conversation should also include the unit at Scannell field on Linwood.

Karen, I would ask that the Friends also be represented at this meeting.

I will place this on the September 12th agenda and reach out the week prior to confirm.

Thanks,

Joseph Connelly, M.Ed.
Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington
781-316-3889
jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us

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From: Lisa Reynolds <lisa.reynolds17@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: Karen Grossman <fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org>
Subject: Re: porto potties

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Joe

Thanks for the info. Are you referring to the AB Crew space as a parking lot? It doesn't seem to be serving that purpose anymore. Locating the potties in the AB Crew space may have made zero sense to you and AB Crew but park goers, neighbors and abutters have different perspectives that deserve consideration. Before the cement was poured, perhaps a compromise could have been reached with the folks who have to live with them on a daily basis.

e1



FW: Unleashed dogs in Menotomy park

yogi s. <shivakali@hotmail.com>

Sun 6/7/2020 8:27 AM

To:jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Arlington's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the REAL sender (whose email address in the From: line in "< >" brackets) and you know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Connelly,

I sent this email couple of weeks ago but haven't received any response. I saw your email posted on the sing post.

From: yogi.s.

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:34 AM

To: pubworks@town.arlington.ma.us

Subject: Unleashed dogs in Menotomy park

My wife and I are long time Arlington residents. We've noticed more and more dogs are roaming unleashed in the park outside of allowed leash-free hours.

When we gently remind the owners, they sometimes are very rude or refuse to do it. More than half of the owners are not leashing their dogs in the woods where it is an absolute requirement. I'm an Asian male and after what happened at Central Park in New York recently, we wanted to bring this to your attention.

As you must be aware of, unleashed dogs raise few concerns:

- Sanitation: Owners don't even pick up after their pets as the pets are roaming free in the woods. Some owners don't even have bags to carry pet waste, which goes to show you they're counting on their dogs using the woods.
- Dogs are stomping on wildlife when they stray from the trails.
- It creates tension among owners who leash their dogs and ones that don't.
- People without dogs should be left alone and not feel like they need to be fond of other peoples' dogs.

Recently, I was walking on the trails of Menotomy Woods. There was a couple with their two dogs roaming free and barking. One of them came to me. I politely asked the male owner to leash their dogs. He showed me a leash in his hand saying "Here is the leash". I said "Please leash your dog, sir". He told me to shut up.

We feel there should be some monitoring and people like these should be ticketed.

Let us know if you've any questions.

Please keep us posted.

Warmest regards,

Yogi

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ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

August 8, 2023

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday August 8, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Phil Lasker, Scott Walker, Shirley Canniff (remote), Jen Rothenberg and Josh Fenollosa. Leslie Mayer and Sarah Carrier were not in attendance. Recreation Director Joseph Connelly was also present. Also in attendance was Conservation Commission liaison Susan Chapnick.

Members of the Public: David Kaplan, Liz Reisberg, Maryanna Foskett, Ruth Esposito

Anticipated Speakers: N/A

Preliminary Matter: Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission chair, took formal attendance and welcomed members of the public to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Community Garden Working Group Report

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer reviewed the report of the working group. Mr. Connelly detailed the top two recommendations of McClellen Park Area and Spy Pond at Linwood. The Commission discussed these recommendations. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to get some preliminary pricing for a pilot program at McClellen Park.

The Commission thanked the working group for all of their efforts,

FY 25 Capital and CPA Discussion

Mr. Connelly and the Commission reviewed their FY 25 Capital and CPA Requests. Mr. Connelly reviewed the Commission's plan as voted August 2022.

Ms. Rothenberg discussed the need for a master plan for fields and playgrounds to identify the true needs of the community. The Commission discussed several reasons why this would benefit long term decision making. Ms. Mayer discussed the commission's historical capital planning process.

The Commission reviewed the draft court assessment concepts with Mr. Connelly prepared by Activitas.

The Commission decided to forgo any major field renovations until a master plan could take place and asked Mr. Connelly to solicit pricing for a capital request.

The Commission discussed the following course of action:

FY 25 Capital

Feasibility Study - \$10,000

ADA Implementation -\$50,000

Playground Inspection and Repairs - \$75,000

Field Master Plan - \$85,000 - Pricing verified by Activitas

Parallel Park - \$500,000- Already in capital plan and we will be starting design this fall

FY 25 CPA

Courts Facility - \$1,000,000 - Crosby

FY 26 Capital

Feasibility Study - \$10,000

ADA Implementation -\$50,000

Playground Inspection and Repairs - \$75,000

Playground Master Plan - \$65,000 -

Thorndike Dog Park - \$300,000 -

FY 27 Capital

Feasibility Study - \$10,000

ADA Implementation -\$50,000

Playground Inspection and Repairs - \$75,000

Buzzell - \$500,000 (Place Holder)

Capital Report

Menotomy and Parallel Design

The Commission reviewed the received RFP's and decided to invite KZLA, Copley, and Stantec to a future meeting for interviews.

Hills Hill MTB Design

Mr. Connelly reviewed the RFP from Weston and Sampson. Mr. Connelly, Mr. Lasker, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Fenollosa did meet with the firm to discuss the scope and pricing.

Robbins Farm Park

Mr. Connelly stated that the bid opening was pushed back to 8/21 due to some necessary last minute changes.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Walker asked to include comments from correspondence received regarding playlocal tennis court booking system.

Mr. Lasker motioned to approve the minutes of July 11, 2023, as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Approved 3-0-2. Ms. Mayer and Ms. Canniff abstained from the vote.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings:

Off Leash Request in Menotomy Woods Meeting Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed a meeting held with him and Ms. Canniff and several residents requesting off leash hours in the Menotomy Woods during off leash park hours. Mr. Connelly stated the meeting was productive and the group discussed:

History of Off Leash Hours at Menotomy
Current demand for hours in the woods
Enforcement
Need for up to date Data

The Commission discussed these issues with those in attendance. Ms. Reisberg and Mr. Kaplan expressed the need of fellow residents and that there was no data supporting resident's safety concerns. The Commission expressed concern of the best approach to gathering accurate data and the method of which data would be secured and by whom.

Mr. Walker expressed concern over getting accurate data from those who are not using the park currently due to the off leash dog issues. Mr. Lasker also expressed concern over getting data from those who do not have cell phones if data was to be collected via QR code.

Mr. Kaplan and Ms. Esposito expressed concern over not having shared use of portions of the park where their dogs wanted to go. The Commission discussed the current boundaries of the off leash program and their concern with limiting use in the park for just off leash activity during those times.

Mr. Connelly stated that he understood that policies should be revisited periodically and that after 13 years it made sense to do so. Mr. Connelly and the Commission had reservations about rewarding those who purposely disobeyed the current rules by expanding the off leash program. The Commission and the members of the public discussed this issue.

Ms. Chapnick raised concern regarding dog waste run off into the pond due and believes that the environmental impact should also be considered with any policy revision.

The Commission stated that the policy should be reviewed as a whole so that decisions can be made with all the information available and decisions can be made for the betterment of the entire off leash program not just one particular park in the program. This is something that Ms. Chapnick agreed with.

The Commission thanked those who came and participated in the discussion which will continue as an agenda item at a future meeting.

Correspondence Received:

Correspondence received was reviewed as part of the previous discussion.

New Business:

Ms. Rothenberg asked Mr. Connelly to review the success of the reservoir beach this summer. Mr. Connelly reviewed the attendance for the weekly special events and he publicly thanked the reservoir beach staff for all of their hard work and dedication.

Open Forum: N/A

Mr. Lasker motioned to adjourn at 9:55pm, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Approved 4-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Joseph Connelly.